Copy to:
H. WEISBERG

FBI Secrets

An Agent's Exposé

M. Wesley Swearingen
With an introduction
by Ward Churchill

> I did not know, when I joined [the FBI], that former Director J. Edgar Hoover would instruct agents to violate extortion and kidnapping laws. I did not know then that FBI agents would plot assassinations of American citizens and put innocent individuals in jail just because their skin is black or because they are Native Americans.
>
> —M. Wesley Swearingen

Spy, spook, gum-shoe: Wesley Swearingen was a patriotic college grad when he became an Agent in J. Edgar Hoover's private army: the FBI. Twenty-five years later he had seen his fill of political harassment, lying to Congress, and paying off assassins; he was ready to blow the whistle on America's political police. His is the first insider's account of the FBI's COINTELPRO era.

From the '50s to the '70s in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, Swearingen records his participation in campaigns against Communists and Moslems, Weathermen, Black Panthers, and United Slaves. The gradual transformation of Swearingen — from dreaming of fighting the Mob to feeling compelled to condemn the institution he once revered — is a metaphor for Americans' growing lack of faith in their government. Readers interested in domestic repression or U.S. history more generally will find invaluable primary source material in this historic exposé.

About the Author

Wesley Swearingen was an FBI Agent for 25 years and since his retirement has been instrumental in documenting FBI harassment against political dissidents. He lives in Arizona and is available for print, radio, and television interviews.

Categories

Available May 1995
180 pages
ISBN: 0-89608-501-5 $13.00 paper
ISBN: 0-89608-502-3 $30.00 cloth